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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

e the Application of:

Sakae MATSUMOTO et al.

Appln. No.: 09/936,564

Group Art Unit: 3682

Filed: September 14, 2001

Examiner: B. Van Pelt

For: COUPLING STRUCTURE OF EXTENSIBLE SHAFTS

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the time now set for response be extended, retroactively, by three months. The required petition fee for a large entity is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1165.

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MWS:sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C. 1751 Pinnacle Drive Suite 500 McLean, Virginia 22102-3833 (703) 903-8652

January 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell W. Shapiro

Req. No. 31,568